



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314
July 18, 2019, 8:00AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Leon Davidoff (Chair), Shari Cantor, Liam Sweeney (phone), Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams (phone)

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Dan Coppinger (Assistant Police Chief), Vernon Riddick (Police Chief), Mike Sinsigalli (Assistant Fire Chief), Greg Priest (Fire Chief)

Members of the Public

1. **Call to Order**-Councilor Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

2. **Communications** – The committee accepted the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes.

3. Staff Reports

- a. Police-Chief Riddick provided brief department updates. He reviewed notable incidents, recent reports, and upcoming events. The department is sending two children to Channel 3's summer camp for a week. Staff purchased the hot dogs at the senior citizen picnic at Town Hall. He provided an update on the Zaytoon's Bistro shooting.

A social media committee has been created to assist the department in its social media presence. The 9pm Facebook reminders have been well received by the community.

Assistant Chief McCue retired as of July 17th. The process for his replacement has started and will remain open until July 30th. There are two new hires; a swearing in ceremony will be scheduled soon.

Chief Riddick answered questions posed by the committee and thanked them for their acknowledgment of his involvement and work at the legislation recently.

- b. Fire-Chief Priest also provided brief department updates. He updated the committee on recent statistics, notable events and incidents, reported on personnel matters and highlighted special projects.

The department is also working on a social media initiative. The department has four retirements pending and seventeen vacancies. There is ongoing training and hiring to fill positions.

Chief Priest answered questions posed by the committee and will provide more information on town wide narcotic use and firefighter training at the next meeting.

4. Business Items

- a. Fire Department Efficiency and Effectiveness Study- Chief Priest walked the committee through the first workshop following the presentation of the fire department efficiency and effectiveness study. He provided a summary of the study, outlined the goals and objectives of future workshops, and laid the framework for Fitch's study.

Workshop #1 included the pros and cons of Fitch's study, starters, core thoughts, context, concepts and definitions.

In order to end the meeting on time, Chief Priest paused the discussion at the NFPA 450 slide. He will continue the discussion at the next scheduled workshop.

5. Adjournment-Chairman Davidoff adjourned the meeting at 9:16am.